

FISCAL NOTE

HB 496 - SB 555

February 24, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Authorizes the Department of Environment and Conservation to develop a timetable for the removal of MTBE (methyl tertiary-butyl ether) from gasoline at the earliest possible date.
2. Requires the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation to do the following:
 - Propose regulations for the introduction of MTBE free gasoline.
 - Review studies on the effect of MTBE-free gasoline on emissions and air quality.
 - Prohibit the use of MTBE in gasoline by December 31, 2003
 - Explore the impact of spending excess funds from the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Fund to defray the cost of implementing the MTBE-free gasoline regulations; if so appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose, to defray some of the costs of implementing this bill.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$100,000

The Department of Environment and Conservation states that cost of a study to evaluate both the ground water issues and the reformulated gasoline issues would exceed \$100,000. This estimate is based on the cost of similar studies done in other states.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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